

EXHIBITION OF SPECIMENS.

The meeting terminated by the usual exhibition of specimens, of which the following is a list :—By Mr. F. G. A. Barnard.—Branch with flowers of *Lhotzkyia genetylloides* (F. v. M.), from plant obtained at the Grampians and grown at Kew. By Mr. C. Duncan.—Four species and two varieties of ferns. By Mr. C. French, jun.—Eggs of Tasmanian *Graeculus* (Tasmania); Bell Bird and Coach-whip Bird (Gippsland). By Mr. H. Hill.—Cases of New Zealand and Victorian Lepidoptera. By Mr. G. A. Keartland.—Pair of Brush Wattle Birds (*Anellobia mellivora*): eggs of Yellow-legged Spoonbill (*Platylea flavipes*), Pacific Heron (*Ardea pacifica*), Little Water Crake (*Porzana palustris*), and Painted Snipe (*Rhynchæa australis*); also, what are stated to be those of the New Holland Snipe (*Gallinago australis*). By Mr. Jas. Lidgett.—Branch of mangrove tree; also coloured drawings of Victorian and Queensland butterflies and moths, amongst which the following were named :—*Delias harpalyce*, *D. aganippe*, *Terias smilax*, *Papilio sarpedon*, *Agarista glycine*, and *A. lewinii*. By Baron von Mueller.—Plants from Prince Regent's River, North-Western Australia, including two species new to science, viz., *Corchorus allenii* and *Triumphetta bradshawii*; *Dodonæa hansenii*, from Stuart's River, North Queensland, also new to science; also eighth edition of "Select Plants," by Baron von Mueller. By Mr. C. G. W. Officer.—Fragments of bone and specimens of Æolian rocks, from Warrnambool. By Mr. J. Shephard.—Mounted specimens of a rotifer (*Notops clavulatus*); also sliding microtome, with improved paraffin carrier, and a simple microscope (both manufactured by Davies, Shephard and Co., South Melbourne). By Mr. Thos. Steel.—Living specimens of the Whip Snake (*Hoplocephalus flagellum*), from Yarraville, and Copper Snake (*H. superbis*), from Sandringham; and two lizards (*Liolepisma trilineatum* and *Grammatopheia muricata*), from Moonee Ponds; also Fijian, Maori, and Malloccollo crania (in illustration of paper). By Rev. W. T. Whan.—Fossils from Muddy Creek, Curdie's River, and Gellibrand River.

EXCURSION TO BRIGHTON BEACH.

ON Saturday, the 15th August, on the arrival of the 1.40 train from Melbourne at Brighton Beach, about twenty members assembled to take part in the first excursion of the new programme. Some four or five elected to proceed to Sandringham by train in order to search the heath lands for botanical specimens. The main body of the party at once started in the direction of Hampton, to go over a locality locally known as Smith's paddock, where there is usually a considerable area of

swampy ground. The first halt was made at a depression filled with storm water, the recent heavy rains having created a miniature lake. Here the first dip revealed the presence of the charming *Volvox globator*, and a little further on in the same swamp the fine free-swimming rotifer, *Notops clavulatus*, was found in great abundance. This rotifer is very widely distributed, and is to be met with at all seasons, but on this occasion it was unusually plentiful, and subsequent examination showed it to be feeding on the young spheres of the *Volvox*, and to this plentiful food supply the great number of the rotifer was no doubt due. Phials of various sizes and shapes were produced, and samples of the water taken for examination at home. Moving on in the direction of Sandringham, one or two pools were tried, one yielding a large supply of the common *Stentor*, *S. polymorphus*, which was in such vigorous growth that on being placed subsequently in a trough a few days sufficed to change a single individual into a group the eighth of an inch in diameter and numbering scores of animals, and the colony in the meantime secreting a gelatinous mass which housed the whole party. Another pool yielded a few specimens of the common leech. Going further towards the high land immediately above Sandringham railway station, duly appreciating the beautiful view obtainable, the party reached a swamp lying in a depression on the somewhat elevated table-land of heath country. Here *Volvox* was again plentiful, and a large water beetle was noticed, the very ferocious-looking larvæ of which had been earlier seen. Gatherings were taken from all likely places. A little diversion was created by one of the leeches previously captured escaping, with manifest intentions of making a meal off the person of the Club's secretary. Mr. J. S. Hart and a few members here rejoined the party, after a short detour for botanizing purposes, and reported having made several interesting observations.

As the sun was now fast sinking, a move was made for the railway station, and train taken for Melbourne, after a pleasant afternoon, of which not the least enjoyable factors had been the fresh spring air, blue sky, and pleasant views of sea and land.

Examination of the material, made later, in the brief time I was able to give to it, enabled me to recognize, in addition to the forms previously mentioned:—Entomostraca. — *Diaptomus castor*, *Daphnia vetula*, *D. pulex*, *Cyclops quadricornis*. Rotifera.—*Anurca aculeata*, *Polyarthra platyptera*, *Notommata naias*, *Diaschiza semiaperta*, *Mastigocerca carinata*, *Noteus quadricornis*, *Melicerta ringens*, *Limnias ceratophylli*.

Mr. C. French, jun., reported that the botanical section were very successful, the following orchids being obtained in flower:—*Pterostylis nana*, *P. curta*, *P. nutans*, *P. concinna*, *P. pedunculata*, *P. vittata*, *Corysanthes pruinosa*, *Acianthus exsertus*,

Cyrtostylis reniformis; and, in addition, ornithology had not been neglected, as nest, eggs, and young of the New Holland Honey-eater, and nest and eggs of the White-fronted Sericornis, were secured.

J. SHEPHARD.

VISIT TO THE ENTOMOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

SOME twenty members of the Club visited the Government Entomological Department at the Exhibition Buildings on Saturday afternoon, 29th August, at the invitation of Mr. C. French, F.L.S., the Government Entomologist. It was a typical spring day, and those assembled in the somewhat gloomy buildings had smothered longings for the bright sunshine outside. These impressions, however, lasted only so long as we were waiting for the tour of inspection to begin. Directly the specimen cases were opened the sense of gloom vanished, and the highly coloured butterflies gathered in from every quarter of the globe, together with the sombre but rich tints of the varied forms of beetles, rivetted attention, and seemed for the time being a fair exchange for the glorious weather outside. It is impossible to describe in detail the rare and beautiful specimens in this collection, or their marvellous adaptation to the surroundings in which they lived. Let it suffice to state that it includes types of the different groups, genera, and species of butterflies, moths, beetles, &c., not only for purposes of comparison, but also for exchange, and Mr. French will, as we know from experience, give the most courteous attention to enquiries in this, one of his special branches of study and research.

We should, however, be neglecting an obvious duty if we passed over in this hurried manner the cases set apart for illustrating the life-history of our insect pests. Thus the eggs, larval stages, and perfect insects, together with examples of their ravages, are given, so that one can see at a glance not only the various stages in growth and development, but also the particular food and circumstances under which they live. Amongst other pests so treated may be mentioned the Victorian Locust, the Codlin Moth, the Pear Slug, the Cherry Borer, and the Potato Moth.

Mr. French thus sets an example which could be followed with profit by many collectors. He does not simply secure his "beasts," but he arranges them so that they have an educational value, not according to details of colour, but rather from an economic and scientific standpoint. His specimens are not simply so many isolated items in the animal kingdom, but rather so many links in that chain of nature which it is the object of the true naturalist to aid in completing. The study of the life-history of insect pests is, however, not confined to mere dried specimens,